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6 February 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Economic Research Area
Chief, Geographic Research Area ✓ 25X1B4d
[REDACTED]
Chief, Analysis Division
Chief, Materials Division
Chief, Industrial Division
Chief, Services Division
Chief, Geography Division
Chief, Map Library Division

FROM : Chief, Intelligence Information Staff

SUBJECT : ORR Participation in the State Department
Comprehensive Economic Reporting Program
(CERP) Covering Non-Bloc Posts

1. The Office of Research and Reports has the responsibility for coordination of CIA's requirements for the CERP of the Department of State. One of the principal activities associated with this involves the preparation of a periodic (usually annual) evaluation of CERP reporting for each post. In order to assist end users, the Division of Foreign Reporting (REF) of State Department prepares a draft evaluation which is circulated with a request for comment. During the past eight months ORR has supplied no comments although some 35 drafts have been circulated.

The lack of ORR comments on draft evaluations is interpreted by State Department (REF) as indicative of decreased interest of this Office in CERP reporting, despite informal assurances to the contrary.

2. The CERP, though confined to non-bloc posts, covers many subjects of possible interest to ORR. Among these are:

- a. World Trade Figures
- b. Trade with Soviet Bloc
- c. Foreign Investment
- d. Domestic Economic Activity, Prices
- e. Government Fiscal Operations
- f. International Reserves and Exchange Rates
- g. Foreign Trade in Vehicles and Equipment
- h. Transportation, Communications and Utilities

i. Minerals and Fuels

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- j. Agriculture and Land Reform
- k. Economic Development of Underdeveloped Areas
- l. International Economic Organizations
- m. International Trade Fairs and Exhibitions
- n. International Agreements (Trade, Civil, Aviation, etc.)
- o. Population Trends
- p. Labor Organizations

3. Inasmuch as CERP reporting is a significant source of information to OMR, it is to the advantage of this Office to assist in its direction and evaluation. The periodic evaluations are a convenient means for OMR to indicate to the field the usefulness of past reporting, to focus future efforts on areas of particular interest to OMR, and to alert posts to likely developments during the coming year.

4. In view of the Department of State's mounting concern and the stake of this Office in this program, it is suggested that OMR components be encouraged to give thorough consideration to the draft evaluations of CERP reporting and comment where possible.

5. Copies of the draft evaluation for Saudi Arabia have been forwarded to S/TF, S/TD, M/FP, and GG/N for action.

For the Chief
Intelligence Information Staff

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Chief, Requirements Branch
Office of Research and Reports

cc: AD/RR

St/I/R: [REDACTED] :ums/521

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